

VINDICATION OF MR. BUCHANAN
FROM A "LOYAL" SOURCE.

It will be remembered that Hon. Montgomery Blair arranged Hon. Joseph Holt, in his late speech, for manifesting a sympathy with the secessionists during the close of Mr. Buchanan's administration, of which he was a member. Mr. Holt, in his reply to Mr. Blair, makes the following vindication of himself and Mr. Buchanan:

"I never signed, or was in any way a party to, an agreement that no act of war should take place on the part of the United States during Mr. Buchanan's term; nor do I believe that any such agreement was made, or by anybody else, signed by the Secretary of the Navy, as authorized by Mr. Buchanan, or even extended. I assure, most positively, that there never was a day, during the period referred to, when the President was not perfectly free to perform his duty, and his whole duty, in defense of the forts and other property of the United States, and to open fire from the forts whenever, in his judgment, their safety demanded it."

Here is an issue between two persons who were prominently connected with the Administration of Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Holt positively asserts that there was no agreement whatever between Mr. Buchanan and the rebel leaders, which implied that no act of war should take place on the part of the United States; while on the other hand Mr. Blair, whose veracity has never been questioned, and who was in a situation to know whereof he affirms, asserts with equal positiveness that Mr. Lincoln's Administration was pledged in the beginning not to make any hostile demonstrations in defense of the property of the United States. It must not be forgotten that both of these statements come from "loyal" men, who filled high places in the councils of the nation, and who participated in the administration of the Government during the recent troubles of the country. Mr. Buchanan has been denounced in unmeasured terms by the "loyal" men of the nation for occupying a position towards the rebellion which Mr. Holt says he did not; while Mr. Blair, another "loyal" man, says Mr. Lincoln did give the pledges to the Southern men for which Mr. Buchanan has been anathematized by the supporters of the Administration which succeeded him. Through the antagonisms which have already arisen and those which will hereafter, through jealousy and rivalry, be developed, it will be found that the Old Public Functionary has been made the scape-goat for the acts of his party opponents, and by men who have found it necessary to shield themselves from censure, or to aid their partisan schemes, which is more likely, to attempt to saddle their own deeds, which proved unpopular, upon him. As Mr. Lincoln once remarked, we are making history. The calm, sober, second thought of the people will pass a different judgment upon the events which have occurred since November, 1860, than that which the passions, the ignorance, and the prejudices of the hour have recorded.

RESTORATION OF THE UNION—
EQUAL AND IMPARTIAL TAXATION.

Resolved, That we approve as enthusiastically as we can the sentiments of kindness and confidence which President Johnson evinced towards those of the community and individuals lately in rebellion, who accept the integrity of the Union and the perpetual prohibition of slavery as the legitimate and irreversible results of the war; that we approve the steps he has taken toward relieving the bonds of military authority in the Southern States, and in restoring to their people full and complete control over their local affairs, just as soon as may be found compatible with the preservation of order, the permanence of peace, the exclusion of slavery and the fulfillment of the constitutional obligation of the National Government to guarantee to every State a republican form of Government; and that we confidently look forward, under his wise and patriotic administration, to the establishment of more cordial relations of greater mutual respect, and of a stronger interest in each other's welfare, between the Northern and Southern sections of the country, than have hitherto prevailed; and that, in all the measures he may adopt, tending to the attainment of these just and beneficial ends, we pledge our cordial and hearty support.

Resolved, That the debt incurred by the nation in defense of its own existence, is a sacred and irrevocable obligation upon the National Government, and all the resources of all sections of the country for its fulfillment; that while we demand at the hands of Congress such measures as shall impose the burden of taxation equally and impartially upon all classes, we have full reliance upon the people for the maintenance of the national honor, and the ultimate extinction of the national debt; and that we approve and endorse the determination of the Government under no circumstances to assume directly or indirectly, any portion of the debt incurred by the rebel authorities in the prosecution of the war against the United States.

The Journal would have denounced, a few weeks ago, the sentiments expressed in these resolutions as the quintessence of copperheadism. It has regarded the restoration policy of President Johnson as a very doubtful experiment, and the idea of expressing sentiments of kindness and confidence toward the communities and the individuals lately in rebellion was equally repugnant to it, and developed the same symptoms that water does in a case of hydrophobia. And then, to cap the climax, the demand of Congress such measures as shall impose the burden of taxation equally and impartially upon all classes, the Journal has been declaring to be equivalent to repudiation, which could only have originated in the copperhead party. The resolutions we have quoted are a part of the New York Republican platform, adopted in State Convention on the 20th inst. No copperhead platform has gone further or expressed more decided sentiments upon the subjects named in the resolutions which we publish in detail, and which are the action of a New York Republican State Convention. The Republicans of New York, as the Journal has long done, do not attempt to shield the Boodrocity from their just and equal portion of the burdens of taxation, local and general, and we hail this and other concessions to Democratic ideas as evidence of the revolution which is going on in the public mind, and which is destined to again place the ship of state in the hands of the grand old party, which has ever maintained the public faith; whose policy gave unexampled progress and civil liberty and popular rights, and whose mission is to restore the Union in harmony, equality, and upon the principles which are the only basis of free political institutions.

THE BLAIR AND HOLT DIFFICULTY
IN A NUTSHELL.

The grave charges preferred by the Hon. Montgomery Blair against Secretary Holt, and the latter's elaborate defense, we here condense for the convenience of our readers:

CHARGE FIRST.

The then Secretary of War (Holt) refused to permit success to Fort Sumter.

Holt—I deny this statement. No man rejoiced more than I did when the Star of the West was ordered with munitions and provisions to Sumter, and although I countermanded that order myself, both the President and General Scott sanctioned my doing so.

CHARGE SECOND.

General Scott, a witness called by Judge Holt—"After you became Secretary of War,

you refused to permit success to Fort Sumter."

Holt—I deny this statement. No man rejoiced more than I did when the Star of the West was ordered with munitions and provisions to Sumter, and although I countermanded that order myself, both the President and General Scott sanctioned my doing so.

CHARGE THIRD.

Mr. Holt refused his sanction to a bill introduced into the Senate by Mr. Preston King to authorize the Union men of the South to organize and defend themselves.

Holt—I deny this statement. I had no recollection of the bill, until I received a note from Mr. King, saying: "You did not think well of the bill, and I did nothing further respecting it."

CHARGE FOURTH.

Mr. Holt, while Postmaster General, (November, 1859), wrote and published a letter justifying the rebellion.

Holt—I deny this statement. I only wrote the letter. It was published by another party.

We have thus presented in a very simple form the charges against Judge Holt—as well as his answers to the same. The New York Times thinks Judge Holt "makes clean work of it."

Perhaps so. Mr. Stanton would, in all probability, make equally "clean work of it," if the little indictment against him. The country would like to hear from him. Will he not follow the lead of his distinguished predecessor?—Phil. Age.

THE MYSTERIOUS PRISONER—CAPTAIN
RYAN, alias John H. Surratt—How
He was Treated in Washington—
The Inquisition Reviewed—He is
Ordered Back to Vicksburg, and in
consequence there is a prison break,
and his escape.

It will be remembered that a prisoner, supposed to be John H. Surratt, was brought from the southwest to Washington in the month of July, under very mysterious circumstances. It seems that after enduring great sufferings there he has been sent back to Vicksburg, where he is now in prison. He tells his own story:

(From the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.)

We are in receipt of a letter from Captain J. C. Ryan, who was one of the conspirators, giving an account of his mysterious arrest and incarceration in prison. The narrative reads more like a romance than the occurrences of every day life.

Captain Ryan writes us from Vicksburg jail, dated September 18, 1865, and says:

"I left Jackson for Arkansas or Canada about the 10th of July, arrived at Memphis, on the 19th, and put up at the Gayoso Hotel."

"On the 21st he was arrested and taken before a military commission, and after a few questions, and sent him to Irving Block Prison, where he was kept, heavily guarded, until the 26th of July, when he was placed on board a steamer bound for New Orleans."

"On the 27th of August he reached Washington, where he passed under the inspection of countless soldiers, and was detained at General Agnew's headquarters."

"After this he was removed to the Old Capitol Prison, a solitary occupant of a cell in the third story, and in a few days removed to one of the private cells of the National Executive Building, where he remained until the 1st of September."

"Superintending obtaining a newspaper and pencil, he wrote a note on the margin of the paper, and sent it to the British Minister, who sent it to the post-office. It was opened by the post-office officials, however, and Captain Ryan was ordered to tell by whom aid he procured the facilities, and to make a confession of the same."

"I was ordered to disclose the means by which the note passed the prison barriers, but I refused to do so, and he told me he would make me a prisoner of the law, and he would have the power to punish me, but that he would have to pay dear for it some day, as I was imprisoned without a cause. Mr. Wilson said he had nothing to do with the matter, and he would have to keep and hold him until he was ready to make a confession, and he would have to pay dear for it some day, as I was imprisoned without a cause."

"He left, and in a few days he was released, and he was told to 'come along,' which I did, and he led the way down stairs, and across the yard, and halted in front of a small building, and he told me to go in."

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STATE ITEMS.

(Dec. 31) I found you a steady and efficient opponent of secession."

CHARGE SECOND.

The then Secretary of War (Holt) gave the rebel an assurance that the public peace should be maintained by an act of hostility towards South Carolina.

Holt—I deny this statement, and assert most positively that there never was an hour when the guns of Sumter were muzzleed by any agreement. I only wrote to Senators Fitzpatrick, Mallory and Willard, saying: "The President has no Constitutional power to make war, that power being alone in Congress."

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JAMES MADISON ON SECESSION.

A Letter from Him to Daniel Webster in 1830—Important Opinions.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5.

To the Editor of the National Intelligencer:

I enclose a letter from Mr. Madison to Mr. Webster, in 1830, on the subject of secession, and which two twin heresies, it is equally destructive of the Southern construction of the resolutions of '35. So that, whatever else these may mean, they cannot mean (1) Mr. Madison in their support to justify either secession or nullification.

—The Jennings Circuit Court the following case is reported:

"State vs. Andrew C. Cunningham. Indictment for murder on change of venue from Brown county—the jury, after hearing the evidence, brought in a verdict of not guilty."

—The report of this meeting shows the following facts:

"There has been collected during the past year \$101.70. Eight hundred and twenty-nine families have been visited, and forty-two destitute supplied, and a large number of the poor in every township in the county, at an expense of about \$200, which is somewhat greater than it would have been except for the labor incident to the introduction of the new system of Branch societies."

—The Old and New School Presbyterian Synods will meet in joint session at Madison on the 12th of next month. We have a polite request from a Presbyterian minister of a neighboring town, who is expecting to be present, that the country folks will not bring all their chickens in during the Conference now in session, as Presbyterians are equally as fond of them as the Methodists.—Madison Courier.

(From the Chicago Times.)

A Spicy Bit of Scandal—Two Clergymen on a Lark at a Theater—Arrest of the Dramatic Divines as Pickpockets.

Robert Burns, in his day, often had occasion to chide with his satirical quill the debauched and drunken clergy of priest-ridden Scotland, of whom he wrote:

"Ye ministers had been kensid in a better rapier. To visit theaters and spend their nights in laughter."

A hundred years afterwards a case turns up in Chicago, which fits so nicely in the above text, that would spare the journalist might turn clericalism into a comedy, or a tragedy, with enlarged or abridged powers, or have embodied the people of their respective States into one people, nation or sovereignty; or, as they did by a mixed form, make them one people, nation or sovereignty, for certain purposes, and not so for others.

The Constitution of the United States, being established by a competent authority—by that of the people of the several States who were the authors of it—it is not only a part of the Constitution; and here it speaks for itself. It organizes a Government into the usual legislative, executive and judicial departments; invests it with specified powers, leaving the details of the laws made in pursuance of it, to the States; and makes the Government to operate directly on the people; places at its command the powerful physical means of executing its powers; and, finally, proclaims its supremacy, and that of the laws made in pursuance of it, over the Constitution and laws of the States, the powers of the Government being exercised as in other elective and responsible Governments, under the control of its constituents—the people and the States.

Such is the Constitution of the United States as it exists, and as it is, whatever it is, that may be given to it, can make it nothing more nor less than what